Licence for Dolomite Mining

1471. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of licensing for dolomite mining;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are large resources of dolomite all over the country;

(c) the reasons for centralising licensing of dolomite mining; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce bureaucratic centralisation in licensing of cheap and easily available minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The mining leases for Dolomite are given under provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Prospecting licences/mining leases for Dolomite are given by the respective State Governments with prior approval of the Central Government as envisaged under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Develpment) Alt, 1957.

Group Insurance to Mine Workers

1472. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group Insurance to Mine Workers is insisted upon by special enactment;

(b) if so, when does Government propose to implement, if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the life span of mine worker is curtailed due to inhalation of various types of gases under the earth; and

(d) whether the medical allowance of mine worker is commensurate with risk involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Cooking Coal

1473. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import coking coal to meet the requirement of the country during the year 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the countries from which the coking coal will be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Steel Plans under the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant under the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited propose to import during 1993-94 coking coal to the extent of upto 4.5 million tonnes and 1.88 million tonnes respectively; to meet the qualitative and quantitative gaps respectively; to meet between demand and supply of cooking coal from indigenous sources. Actual position in this regard will be known only after the finalisation of tenders etc.

Goa's Iron ore Industry

1474. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether Goa's Iron Ore Industry is under great strain and ore exports had considerably dropped last year:

(b) what are the reasons for the shortfall in export demand and the present State of affairs the ore industry is facing; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSTz MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Due to world-wide recession in the Iron and Steel Industry, there has been some decline in Iron Ore exports. However, iron ore exports from Goa were higher during 1991-92 as compared to the previous year, 1990-91. Withdrawal of export duty on iron ore in the budget proposals for 1993-94 will provide relief to iron ore exporters.

Recession in Steel and Iron Ore Mining Industries

1475. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel and Iron Ore mining industries are facing the worst periods of recession; and

(b) if so the steps being taken to face and to revive the projections in view of the national and international scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). At present there is some slugishness in demand for steel items which is primarily due to several factors including tight money market position, seasonal variations in demand and lower off-take by some of the user. industries. The measures contained in the budget proposal for 1993-94 for idnustrial revival are expeced to stimulate demanor steel. As regards the iron ore mining industry, there has been some decline in the export demand for Iron Ore due to world-wide recession in the Iron & Steel Industry. However, the indigenous demand for iron ore has been increasing with the setting up of new iron and steel units in the country. Withdrawal of export duty on iron ore in the budget proposals for 1993-94 is also expected to provide relief to the iron ore exporters.

Water Supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1476. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to finance projects for water supply from River Godavari for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals to meet water requiremrents of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the township of the steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No Sir.

(b) The water requirements for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant's operations and the Township of the Steel Plant are met from the Yeleru and Rayavada Projects.

Decontrol of PIG Iron

1477. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decontrolled Pig Iron but nothing is being done to reduce the Custom Duty on imported pig iron;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat Small Industries Corporation in Gujarat distribute the pig iron to small scale units; and

(c) what steps are being taken to stop the new entrants in the distribution arrangement system after the decontrol of th epig iron?

THE MINI STER OF STATE THE MINISTER OF STATE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: (a) Pricing and distribution of pig iron was deregulated w.e.f 16-1-92. In the budget proposels for 1993-94, Customs Duty on import of pig iron